

**Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. A golf club training apparatus for use in operable combination with a golf club, said training  
5 apparatus comprising:

an alignment device having a golf club head receiving means including a base portion having a front edge, a rear edge, and first and second side edges, said golf club head receiving means further including a rear  
10 wall extending upwardly from said rear edge, first and second side walls extending upwardly from said first and second side edges, respectively, and front retaining tabs extending upwardly from said front edge of said base portion, said rear wall, said first and second side  
15 walls, said front retaining tabs, and said base portion, in combination, being sized and configured to operably receive and frictionally retain a head element of said golf club therebetween, said golf club head receiving means being further configured to solely operably  
20 maintain said golf club in an upright playing position when said alignment device is operably disposed on a substantially horizontal surface.

2. A golf club training apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein said front retaining tabs are spaced apart from  
25 one another across a central region of said front edge of said base portion, such that the dimension between said front retaining tabs at said central region is at least 1.75 inches.

3. A golf club training apparatus as in Claim 1,  
30 including first and second platform portions extending outwardly from said first and second side edges of said

base portion and in a plane parallel to at least a portion of said base portion, said platform portions being configured to operably stabilize said alignment device in maintaining said golf club in an upright  
5 playing position.

4. A golf club training apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein said golf club is a putter.